

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR WELLS, USUN, ONLY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UN PORG

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW MECHANISM: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF UN
OVERVIEW COMMITTEE CONCLUDES

FOLLOWS TEXT OF REPORTING CABLE FOR YOUR APPROVAL AND
TRANSMISSION PER TELECON WITH HORMATS.

1. SUMMARY: ORGANIZATION MEETING OF UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
CONCLUDES ON COOPERATIVE NOTE AFTER SETTING SCHEDULE OF
SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS FOR 1978 AND AGENDA FOR FIRST
MEETING. US OBJECTIVES LARGELY MET. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WHICH WILL OVERSEE AND MONITOR THE
NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE CONCLUDED IN A FORMAL SESSION THE
EVENING OF FEBRUARY 17. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF INFORMAL
MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE, &S WELL AS MANY MEETINGS AND
CAUCUSES OF SMALLER GROUPS, THE DELEGATES HAMMERED OUT A
SCHEDULE OF SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS AND AN AGENDA FOR THE
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FIRST MEETING. IT ALSO ESTABLISHED AN INDICATIVE AGENDA
FOR A SECOND MEETING THIS YEAR ON WHICH THE US, EC AND
CANADA EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS. THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS G-77 LEADERS, CANADA, EC, JAPAN, US AND CHAIRMAN
JAZAIRI OF ALGERIA DEMONSTRATED COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. THE
SOVIET UNION DID NOT PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE EFFORTS
TO ARRIVE AT GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE POSITIONS, BUT IT

CONSUMED CONSIDERABLE TIME OF THE COMMITTEE IN REPETITIVE
DISCOURSES ON VARIOUS PROCEDURAL ISSUES.

3. THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE UN MAY 3-12. THE SECOND MEETING WILL BE BETWEEN JUNE 21 AND 30 WITH THE PRECISE DATES TO BE ESTABLISHED AT THE FIRST MEETING. A THIRD SHORT MEETING TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE 33RD UNGA WILL BE CONVENED IN SEPTEMBER.

4. THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY MEETING IS:

1. REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF PRINCIPAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE WORLD ECONOMY AND IN PARTICULAR THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING AND OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. TRANSFER OF RESOURCES IN REAL TERMS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. OVERSEEING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ECONOMIC ORDER IN THE APPROPRIATE BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM.

4. CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPHS 4(B) AND (C) OF RESOLUTION 32/174 IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE IS REQUESTED TO:

(A) PROVIDE IMPETUS FOR RESOLVING DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUING WORK IN THESE BODIES;

(B) SERVE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, AS A FORUM FOR FACILITATING AND EXPEDITING AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES;

5. AGENDA AND PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS.

5. REFERRING TO ITEM 3 IN THE AGENDA, THE US NOTED IN AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE THAT ITS RESERVATIONS ON THE NIEOWERE WELL KNOWN.

6. EFFORTS BY THE G-77 TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO MONETARY REFORM IN ITEM 2 WERE BEATEN BACK BY THE US AND EC, AS WERE G-77 ATTEMPTS TO INCLUDE UNDER ITEM 1 TWO

SUB ITEMS ON TRADE:

--INCREASE IN EXPORT EARNINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR TERMS OF TRADE; PROTECTION OF
THE PURCHASING POWER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

--PROTECTIONIST MEASURES BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
AGAINST THE EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

7. THE PROPOSED TEXT FOR THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE IS:
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1. MEASURES REGARDING WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS AND
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. THE LIMA DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION AND THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. RESOLUTION OF THE SPECIAL AND PRESSING PROBLEMS
OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED, LANDLOCKED AND ISLAND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE MOST SERIOUSLY
AFFECTED COUNTRIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE
DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

FOLLOWED BY ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5 OF THE AGENDA OF THE
FIRST SESSION.

8. THIS PROPOSED AGENDA WILL BE REFINED AT THE FIRST
SUBSTANTIVE MEETING. THE US, EC AND CANADA OBJECTED TO
THE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE LIMA DECLARATION AND PLAN
OF ACTION INASMUCH AS IT WAS A UN RESOLUTION TO WHICH
NOT ALL COUNTRIES HAD SUBSCRIBED. THEY DID NOT MAKE A
MAJOR EFFORT TO HAVE THE REFERENCE DELETED BECAUSE, AS
THEY NOTED, THIS AGENDA WAS MERELY INDICATIVE AND
WOULD BE MODIFIED AT THE MAY MEETING.

9. ALSO TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE
THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE
COMMITTEE COULD BE CALLED TO DEAL WITH CRISES. IT IS
CLEAR THAT BY CRISES THE G-77 MEANS DEVELOPMENTS SUCH
AS FAILURE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN THE UNCTAD NEGOTI-
ATIONS FOR A COMMON FUND FOR BUFFER STOCK FINANCING OR
FAILURE TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE LDC DEBT ISSUE
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SATISFACTORY TO THE G-77. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE
CONCERNED THAT, IF THE COMMITTEE COULD CALL SUCH SPECIAL
MEETINGS, IT WOULD ALLOW THE COMMITTEE IN FACT TO
PRE-EMPT NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE IN OTHER FORA,

LEAD TO FREQUENT OR VIRTUALLY CONSTANT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR WHICH PREPARATIONS WOULD BE INADEQUATE, REDUCE THE INCENTIVES FOR NEGOTIATORS IN OTHER FORA TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS AND INHIBIT THE COMMITTEE'S CAPACITY TO

TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. FURTHERMORE, SUCH "CRISES" CAN BE DEALT WITH WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE AT ITS REGULAR MEETINGS UNDER ITEM 4 OF THE AGENDA.

10. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE TIME FOR DISCUSSION OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS, THE CHAIRMAN HAS REQUESTED THAT FORMAL STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM 1 NOT BE MADE AT THE FIRST MEETING. RATHER, WRITTEN STATEMENTS (NOT LONGER THAN NORMAL ORAL STATEMENTS) MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE BY APRIL 7. THE MEETING WILL OPEN WITH DISCUSSION BASED ON THOSE PAPERS.

11. COUNTRIES MAY SUBMIT TO THE COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15 SUGGESTIONS AS TO ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED UNDER ITEM 2.

12. AT THE REQUEST OF SPAIN THE RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WILL INCLUDE EXPLICIT MENTION THAT THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP WILL BE ROTATED IN 1979 AND 1980. CHAIRMAN JAZAIRI GAVE PRIVATE ASSURANCES TO THIS EFFECT TO US DELEGATE HORMATS.

13. COMMENT:

THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WHOLE WAS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TO THE US. VIRTUALLY ALL OF OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED:

A. WE OBTAINED CLEAR COMMITMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE G-77 TO THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

B. WE OBTAINED FORMAL ASSURANCES FROM THE G-77 THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT PRE-EMPT OR INTERFERE WITH NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE IN OTHER FORUMS. (WE WILL HAVE TO WATCH THIS CAREFULLY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE PRESSURES ON THE G-77 TO BRING ISSUES TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONCRETE RESULTS COULD LEAD TO ACTIVITIES BY THE COMMITTEE TANTAMOUNT TO NEGOTIATIONS.)

C. THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL REACH POSITIONS BY CONSENSUS RATHER THAN BY RESOLUTIONS. (WITH ITS MAJORITY POSITION, THE G-77 COULD, IN THE ABSENCE OF THIS UNDERSTANDING, JAM THROUGH ANY RESOLUTION

IT WANTS.)

D. NO LONG RANGE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OR WORK

PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED. EACH MEETING IN EFFECT WILL DETERMINE THE DURATION AND AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ONE. FLEXIBILITY HAS BEEN MAXIMIZED.

E. THE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING CONFORMS TO THE US VIEW THAT IT SHOULD CONSIST OF GENERAL, NEUTRALLY WORDED TOPICS UNDER WHICH COUNTRIES MAY BRING UP A VARIETY OF SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THEM.

F. THE FIRST MEETING WILL BEGIN WITH THE GENERAL
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ANALYTICAL DISCUSSION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY WHICH WE ADVOCATED. THEN IT WILL MOVE TO DISCUSSION OF A MORE SPECIFIC TOPIC (RESOURCE TRANSFERS) WHICH WAS OUR FIRST CHOICE.

G. SUBJECTS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR US, E.G. MONETARY REFORM AND THE G-77'S TRADE ISSUES, DO NOT APPEAR ON THE FIRST AGENDA OR THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING. (THEY MAY COME UP ANYWAY, OF COURSE.)

H. THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS FOR 1978 IS ACCEPTABLE TO US AND BETTER THAN WE HAD EXPECTED. THE MEETINGS ARE A FEW DAYS LONGER THAN WE WANTED, BUT PROBABLY ARE MANAGEABLE. THE TIMING OF THE MEETINGS ALSO IS ACCEPTABLE.

I. G-77 REFERENCES TO A MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER HAVE BEEN DROPPED.

J. THE EC COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ADOPTED A WEAK, PASSIVE ATTITUDE AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING, BECAME VERY EFFECTIVE BY ITS END. THEY CAME TO REALIZE THAT AN ACTIVIST, POSITIVE APPROACH RELATIVELY CLOSE TO THAT OF THE US WOULD ACHIEVE SPECIFIC RESULTS THEY DESIRED WITHOUT BEING PERCEIVED BY THE G-77 AS CONFRONTATIONAL. IN ADDITION AS THE SCANDINAVIANS BEGAN TO PERCEIVE THAT THE ACTIVIST US APPROACH, COUPLED WITH CLOSE US CONSULTATIONS WITH THE G-77 AND OUR CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CONFERENCE, WAS EFFECTIVE, AND NOT SEEN AS CONFRONTATIONAL BY LDCS, US AND SCANS WERE ABLE TO WORK CLOSELY ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. WEO COOPERATION, WHICH WAS A BIT WEAK AT THE OUTSET DUE TO SUSPICIONS OF US MOTIVES AND OUR PREVIOUS ADVOCACY OF A "RESTRICTED GROUP", WAS EXCELLENT AT THE END.

K. THE COMMITTEE HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A COOPERATIVE,

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POTENTIALLY USEFUL, START AND THE US IS PERCEIVED AS
HAVING PLAYED A MAJOR POSITIVE ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT
THIS OUTCOME.

14. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTING ON REACTIONS
OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO THE ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AS WELL AS ON THEIR VIEWS ON THE
OVERALL PURPOSES AND USEFULNESS OF THE COMMITTEE AND
THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING. VANCE

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